

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

These species are those described on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the Nebraska Nongame, Threatened and Endangered Species lists that are considered to be threatened or endangered.

Threatened and Endangered Species listings for Lancaster County:

- Massasauga (Rattle Snake)--State Threatened
- Saltwort (aka as Western Glasswort)--State Endangered
- Western Prairie Fringed Orchid:--State and Federal Threatened
- Salt Creek Tiger Beetle--State Endangered

Species that have habitat or historical distribution in Lancaster County:

- Bald Eagle--State and Federal Threatened
- River Otter--State Threatened
- Small White Lady's Finger (Orchid)--State Threatened
- Topeka Shiner--State and Federal Endangered
- American Burying Beetle--State and Federal Endangered



Photo: Leon Higley

IMPORTANCE:

- Federal and State regulations provide for the preservation and management of threatened and endangered species
- Endangered species are, and have been, factors in defining the natural heritage and history of Lancaster County
- Preserving endangered species “keeps all of the parts” of an ecosystem and thereby maintains biological diversity
- The preservation and management of endangered species helps to define and measure human connectivity to the environment and basic stewardship values
- The study of threatened and endangered species is a significant educational opportunity
- The survival and preservation of species is a barometer of the general health of the accompanying environmental systems

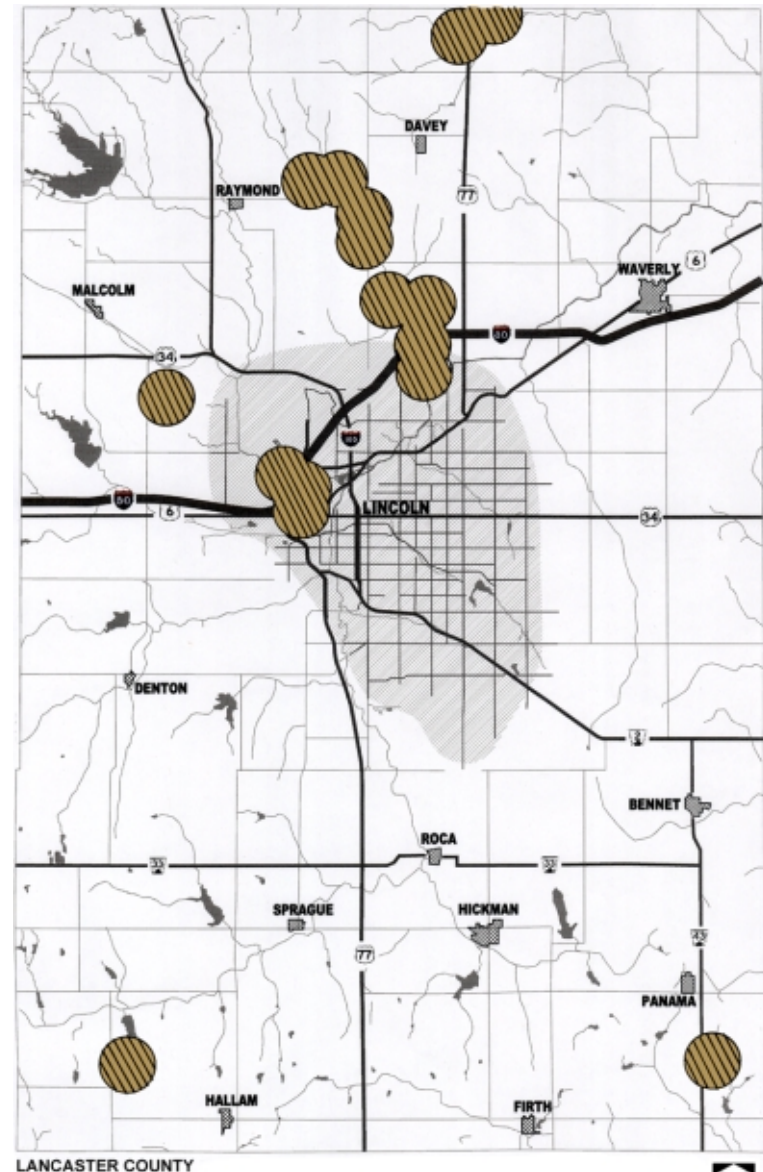
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LEGEND



**LOCATION OF THREATENED OR
ENDANGERED SPECIES**



**Threatened and Endangered
Species**

HUMAN IMPACT/THREAT:

- Human activity or urban impacts can reduce or remove habitat which in turn, harms the ability of endangered species to survive
- Many endangered species are native species that are poorly adapted to human dominated landscapes
- Adjacent land uses that are not compatible with environments that support endangered species can reduce survival of those species
- Conversion of habitat or environments that support endangered species to other types of landscapes threaten survival of the endangered species
- Human activity can cause habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation of the ecosystem
- Expanded human or development activity may limit appropriate management techniques required to sustain endangered species or their supporting habitats
- Mitigation efforts for endangered species may not be effective (i.e. saline wetlands cannot be effectively recreated for the relocation of the tiger salt beetle)
- The survival of endangered species is not only dependent on the preservation of their immediate environment, but also to sensitivity of other ecological systems that are connected
- Humans can, with good intentions, love an endangered species to death

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

- Preservation of existing critical habitat and environments are required
- Buffers should be created around areas that support endangered species
- Restoration of habitat and environments should be considered whenever possible
- Management strategies of endangered species and their supporting environments should be integrated into the planning processes for Lancaster County
- Education about threatened and endangered species is desirable



NEBRASKAland Magazine /
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